

## **REMARKS**

### **Status**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated January 7, 2004, in which claims 1-5 were rejected. No claims have been canceled; claim 1 has been amended; and no new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-5 are pending in the application, and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

### **Claim Objection**

Claim 1 stands objected to for an informality. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, and as amended, is believed to overcome the objection. No new matter is added by this amendment.

In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly identify that the movement of the flat detector is in coordination with the rotation of the x-ray source.

### **Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 103**

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,422,749 (*Polkus*) in view of US Patent No. 6,097,833 (*Lobregt*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated in the Office Action, *Polkus* does not disclose moving a detector in sequential contiguous positions to acquire a sequence of images. As shown in *Polkus*' Figure 2, *Polkus* aligns a projected beam field by directing tube 12 toward detector surface 20a at an angle. As such, *Polkus* teaches a non-moving x-ray source and a non-moving detector.

*Lobregt* does not teach the claimed feature of pivotally rotating a stationarily mounted x-ray source in coordination with the moving of a detector surface. *Lobregt*'s x-ray source is not stationary; *Lobregt*'s x-ray source moves. Further, *Lobregt*'s x-ray source is not mounted for pivotal rotation. More particularly, *Lobregt*'s detector and x-ray source move together since the detector and x-ray source are mounted to the same carrier. This is clearly shown in *Lobregt* at Figure 2 and described at Col 10, starting at line 37. X-ray source 1

and detector 2 are both mounted to a carrier 3 such that detector 2 and x-ray source 1 move together – in parallel - to capture images which mutually overlap.

Therefore, even if, for argument purposes only, the references were combined, the present invention would not result since neither reference teaches the claimed feature of rotating a stationarily mounted x-ray source in coordination with the movement of the detector. *Polkus* teaches holding both elements stationary while *Lobregt* teaches moving both elements in parallel. As such, it is not obvious from the cited references to mount one element for stationary but pivotal movement (i.e., the x-ray source) while moving the other element (i.e., the detector), as claimed by the present invention.

In addition, the present invention addresses a problem not recognized by the prior art. The system taught by *Lobregt* is described in the Background of the Specification (see Pages 1 and 2). As indicated in the Specification, such a system has two drawbacks: (1) mechanical complexity because both the detector and the x-ray tube need to be translated, and (2) inherent geometric distortion that makes precise image stitching almost impossible. The severity of the stitching problem becomes worse with a thicker body part.

The present invention addresses the problems of the *Lobregt* system. As stated in the Specification at Page 3, the present invention eliminates the stereovision-like geometric distortion caused by such systems and allows precise registration of the partial images to reconstruct a larger composite image. Thus, the present invention is not obvious from the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, since the cited references do not address the problem being solved by the present invention.

For the reasons stated above, the present invention is not obvious from the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, and therefore Claim 1 is believed to be patentable.

Claims 2-5 are dependent on independent Claim 1, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to Claim 1, Claims 2-5 are also believed to be patentable.

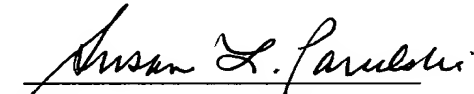
## Summary

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 39,324

Susan L.Parulski/law  
Rochester, NY 14650  
Telephone: (585) 477-4027  
Facsimile: (585) 477-4646